

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 are presently active in this case. The foregoing amendment amends Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 and cancels Claims 1-3, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-21 were previously cancelled. Support for the amendments to Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 can be found in now-cancelled Claims 1, 3, and 22 and is otherwise self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 3, 5, 22, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite; Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Tilseth (U.S. Patent No. 3,753,407, hereafter, “Tilseth”); Claims 3 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tilseth in view of Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0008048, hereafter, “Ishikawa”); and Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 recite allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 3 and 22, as these claims are cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are moot.

Inasmuch as amended Claims 4 and 5 recite all of the features of now-cancelled Claim 3, and amended Claims 23 and 24 recite all of the features of now-cancelled Claim 22, Applicants address the rejection of Claims 3 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The term, “outer periphery” is changed to “inner periphery” in each of Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

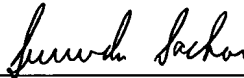
Regarding the rejection of Claims 5 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 5 and 24 are amended to address the minor informalities listed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome.

As Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 are placed in independent form, and Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 were indicated in the outstanding Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully submit that no issues remain outstanding.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendments, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
LS/rac

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\LS\24\S\247055US\247055_AM TO OA 12APR05.DOC